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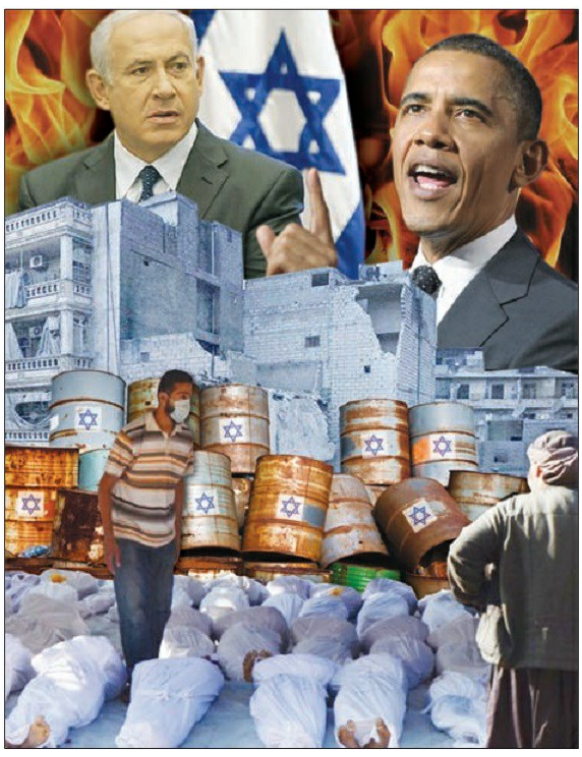

SYRIA FRAMED

• 'No smoking gun' evidence that Syria used chemical weapons

• Israel the source for current charges of sarin gas use by Assad

By Michael Collins Piper

One of America's most respected military figures charged publicly that long-standing allegations about the Syrian government's use of chemical weapons may have been, in his words, "an Israeli false flag operation" calculated to stir up opposition to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, long perceived by Israel as a threat to its geopolitical agenda.

And now that the United States seems poised to attack Syria on the basis of new claims about the use of such weapons, what former Army Col. Lawrence Wilkerson told Current TV on May 3 bears noting.

A longtime military intimate of Gen. Colin Powell, and later his chief of staff when Powell was secretary of state under "W" Bush, Wilkerson said his intelligence sources dismissed claims at that time that Assad's military had used chemical weapons against terrorist forces.

Having loomed over Assad for months, that charge has been reinvigorated and the media revels in the possibility the U.S. will now attack Syria.

However, *The Los Angeles Times* reported Aug. 27 that Germany's *Focus* magazine — citing a former Israeli intelligence official — said Israel was the primary source for current charges about Syria's alleged use of chemical warfare.

Noting "U.S. intelligence sources long have relied on Israel to help provide intelligence about Syria" the *Times* didn't mention it was also Israel that previously supplied the Bush administration much of the false data about supposed weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, which provided the pretext for the invasion of that Arab republic.

The media carefully suppresses the fact that — as demanded by the Israeli lobby in Washington — U.S. tax dollars (underwriting Israeli covert expertise) instigated the rebellion against Assad that led to the civil war that U.S. blood and treasure are now expected to resolve in a manner satisfactory to Israel.

Although the media suggests the Pentagon is eager for war on Syria, the fact is that — just as before the Iraq war when multiple military leaders were warning of the dangers of such a venture — top brass are likewise urging restraint vis-à-vis Syria. Even Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey recently told Congress that U.S. intervention in Syria would not be in America's interests.

Yet, despite widespread public opposition to war, many Republicans and Democrats alike — bankrolled by pro-Israel campaign contributors — are clamoring for action.

Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The New Babylon***, ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem: Zionist Power in America*** , ***The Judas Goats: The Enemy Within***, ***Dirty Secrets: Crime, Conspiracy & Cover-Up in the 20th Century***, ***The GOLEM: Israel's Hell Bomb***, and ***Target: Traficant.*** These works can be found at America First Books and First Amendment Books: 1-888-699-NEWS. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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